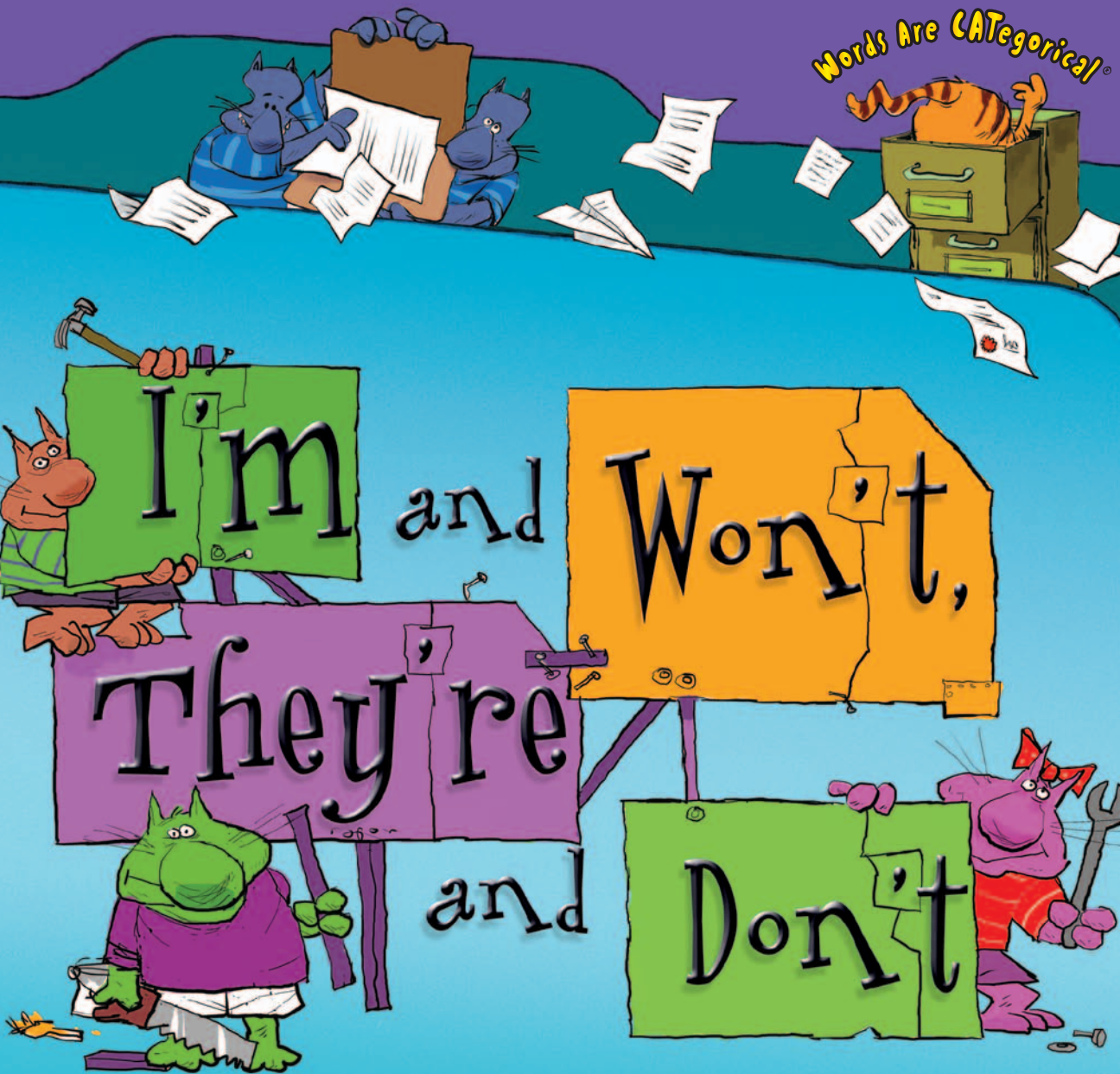


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Words Are CATEGORICAL®



What's a Contraction?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable



What's a Contraction?

You'll find the answer inside this book—**it's** brimming with contractions! Brian P. Cleary's playful rhymes and Brian Gable's humorous illustrations **don't** shy away from creatively clarifying the concept of contractions. For easy identification, **we've** printed the contractions in color. You **won't** want to miss the comical cats that reinforce each idea.

I'm and Won't, They're and Don't: What's a Contraction? turns traditional grammar lesson on end. Read this book aloud and share in the delight of the sense—and nonsense—of words.

I'm and Won't,
They're and Don't

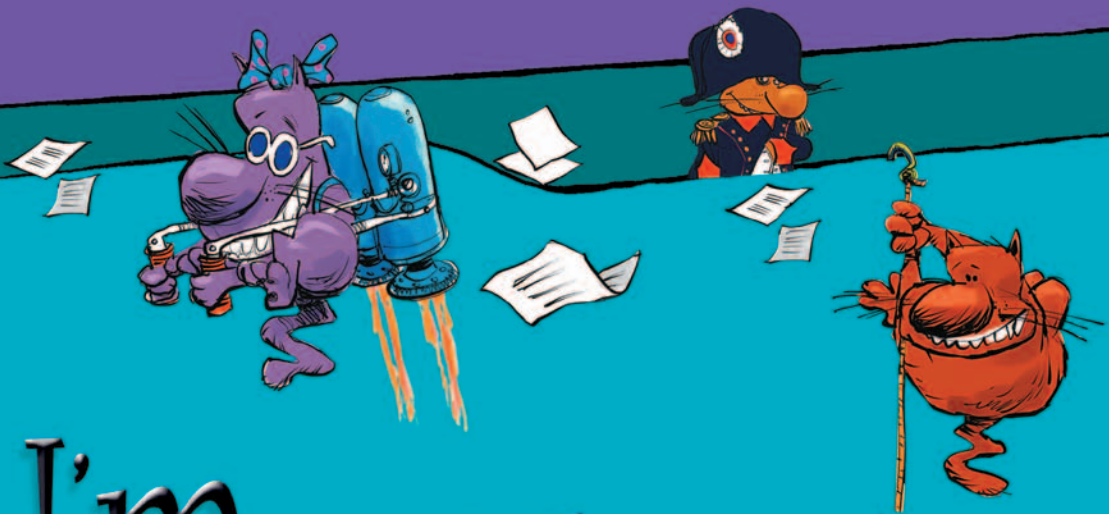


What's a Contraction?



To Tresa, Kelly, Clare, and Shannon
—B.P.C.





I'm and Won't, They're and Don't

What's a Contraction?

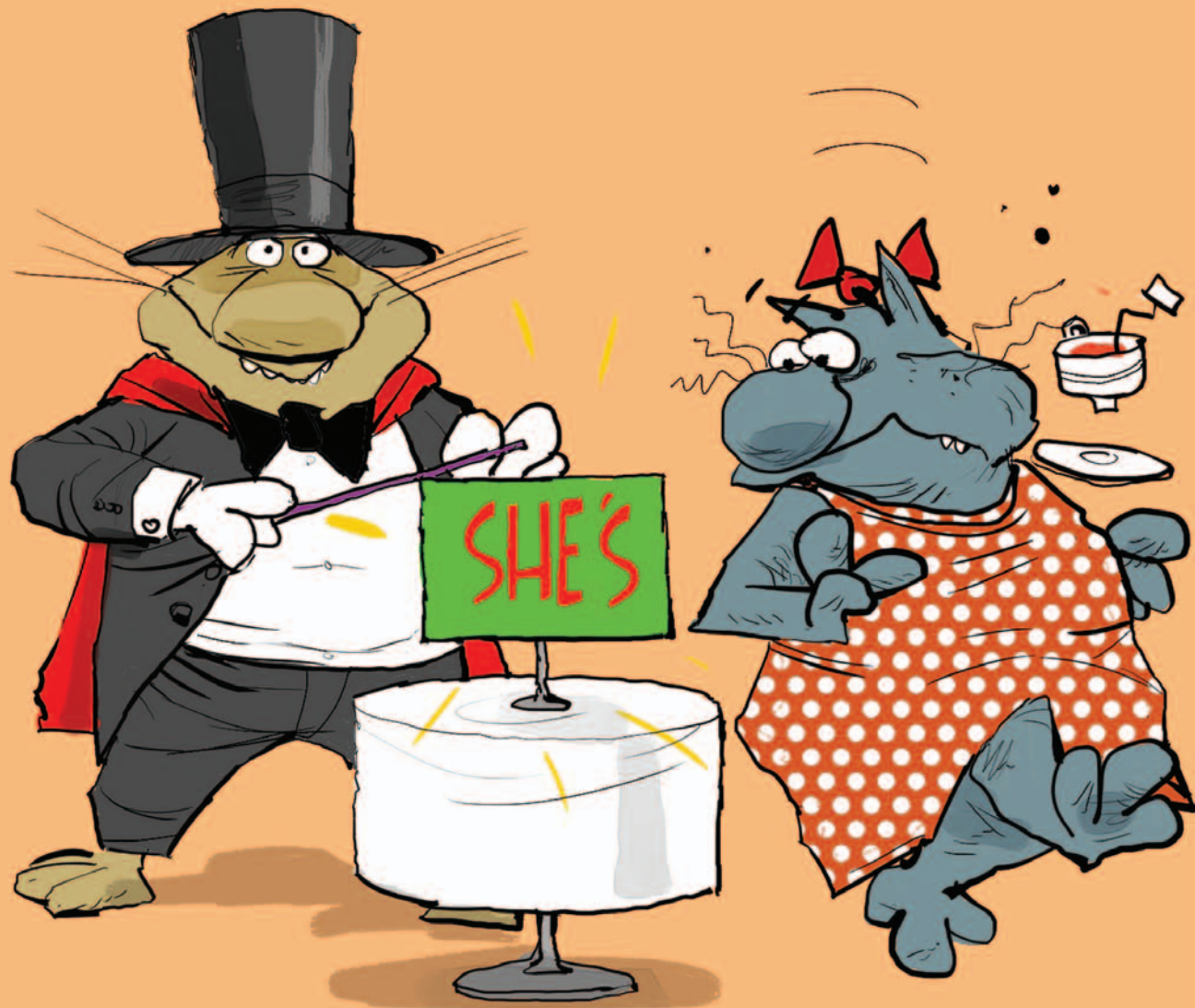
by Brian P. Cleary

illustrations by Brian Gable

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Contractions
take a couple words
or sometimes even three





and shrink them
into only one,
as in, "she's drinking tea."

"she's" is the contraction,



and it shortens up "she is."

It takes two words
and makes them one.



as in, "That's mine and his."

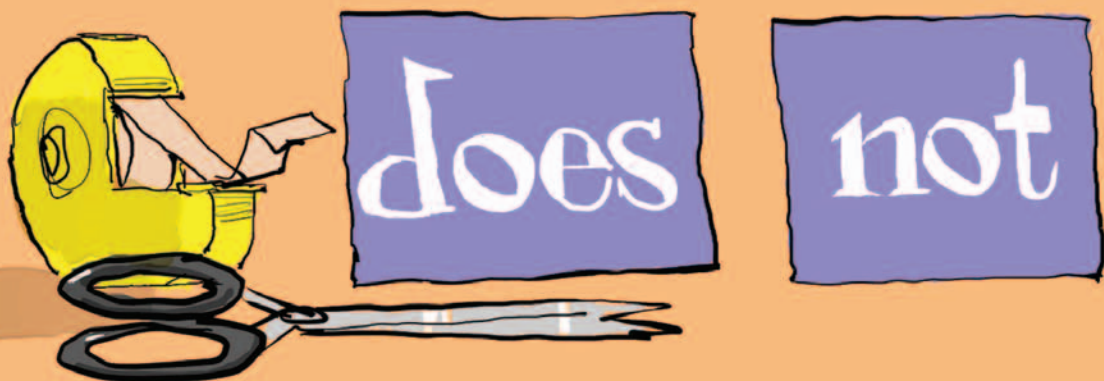
AS punctuation goes,
contractions always
feature these:



They take the place of letters,
and *they're* called apostrophes.



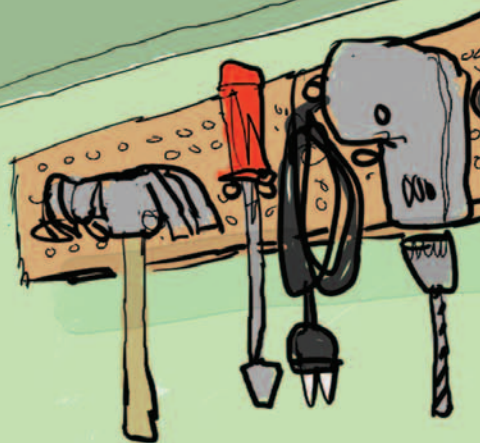
Take a phrase like "does not."



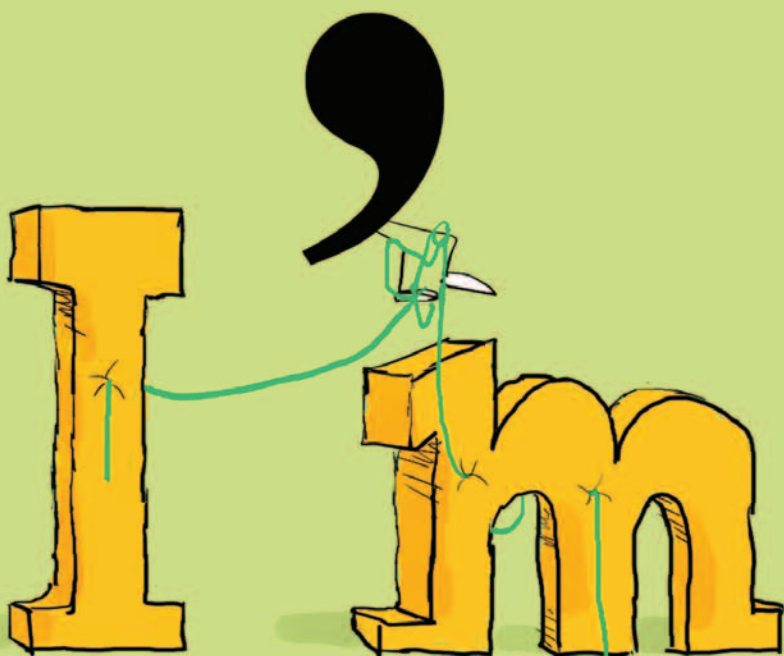
A contraction makes it
"doesn't."



Try another: "Was not."
You can shorten it to "Wasn't."



Apostrophes help link the words
and replace at least one letter.



As in, "I'm Very proud
that I've helped make
this lovely sweater."



oftentimes contractions
join another word to "not."



Like "shouldn't it be colder now?"



and "can't I take your spot?"

"I **don't** think this shoe is mine."



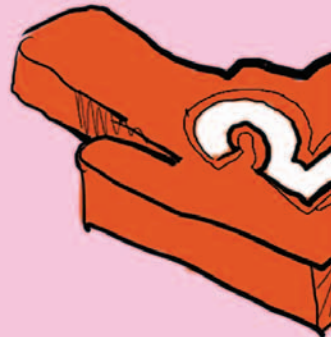
"Isn't it absurd?"



THEY'RE WE'LL
SHE'S I'D
CAN'T COULDN'T
I'LL



All these turn a
two-word phrase
into one single word.



other times, contractions
shorten "are" or "is" or "am."



AS in,

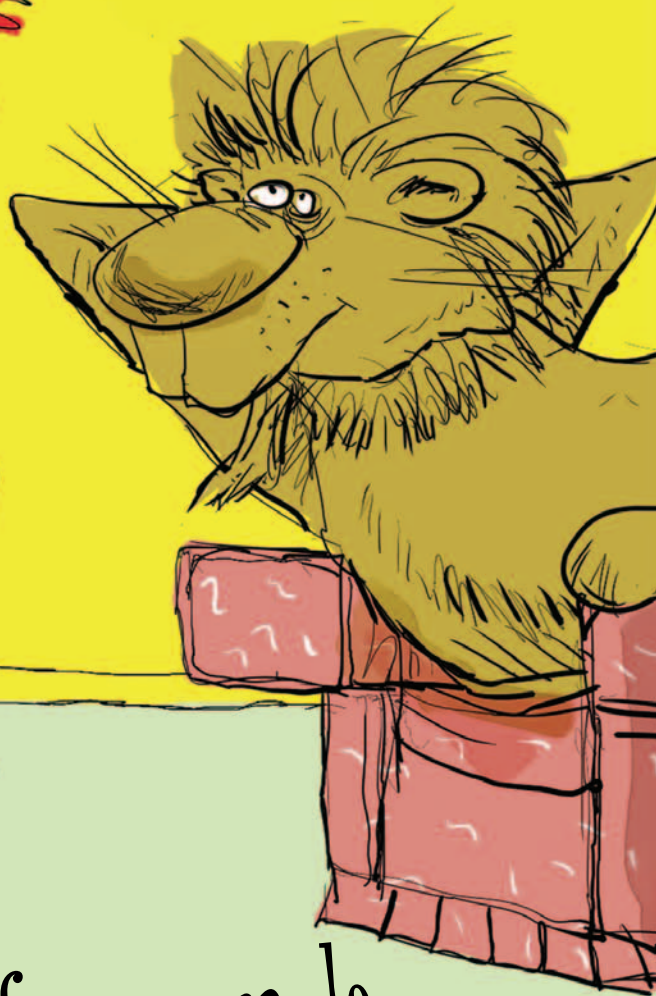
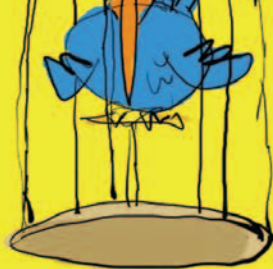
"I'm sure **y**ou're hungry,"

and "**H**e's cooking up
some ham."



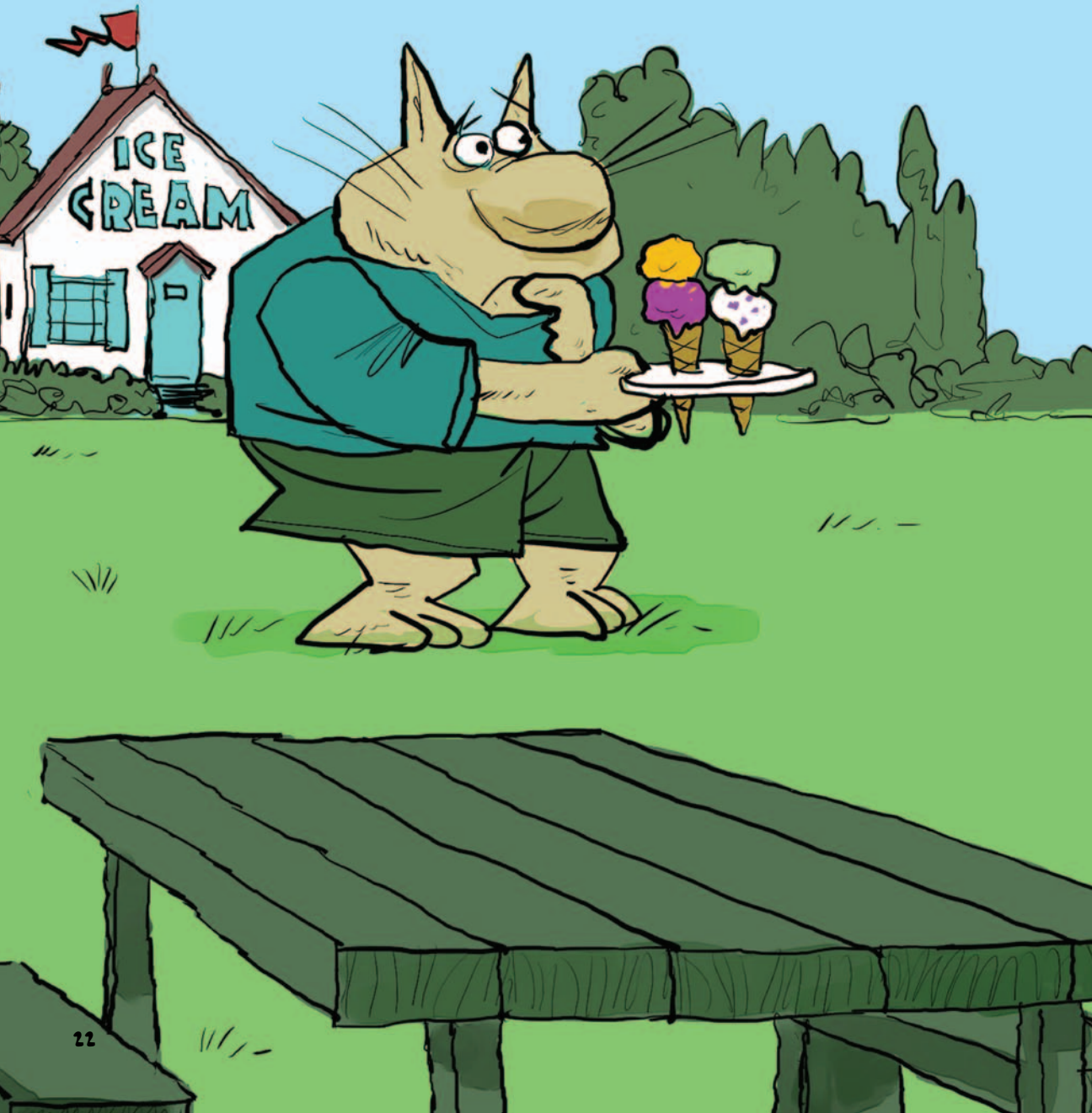
Now and then, contractions
shorten not just two...





but three words, for example,
"I'd've thought this was the zoo!"

“Would” when **it’s** contracted
is reduced to just a “d”

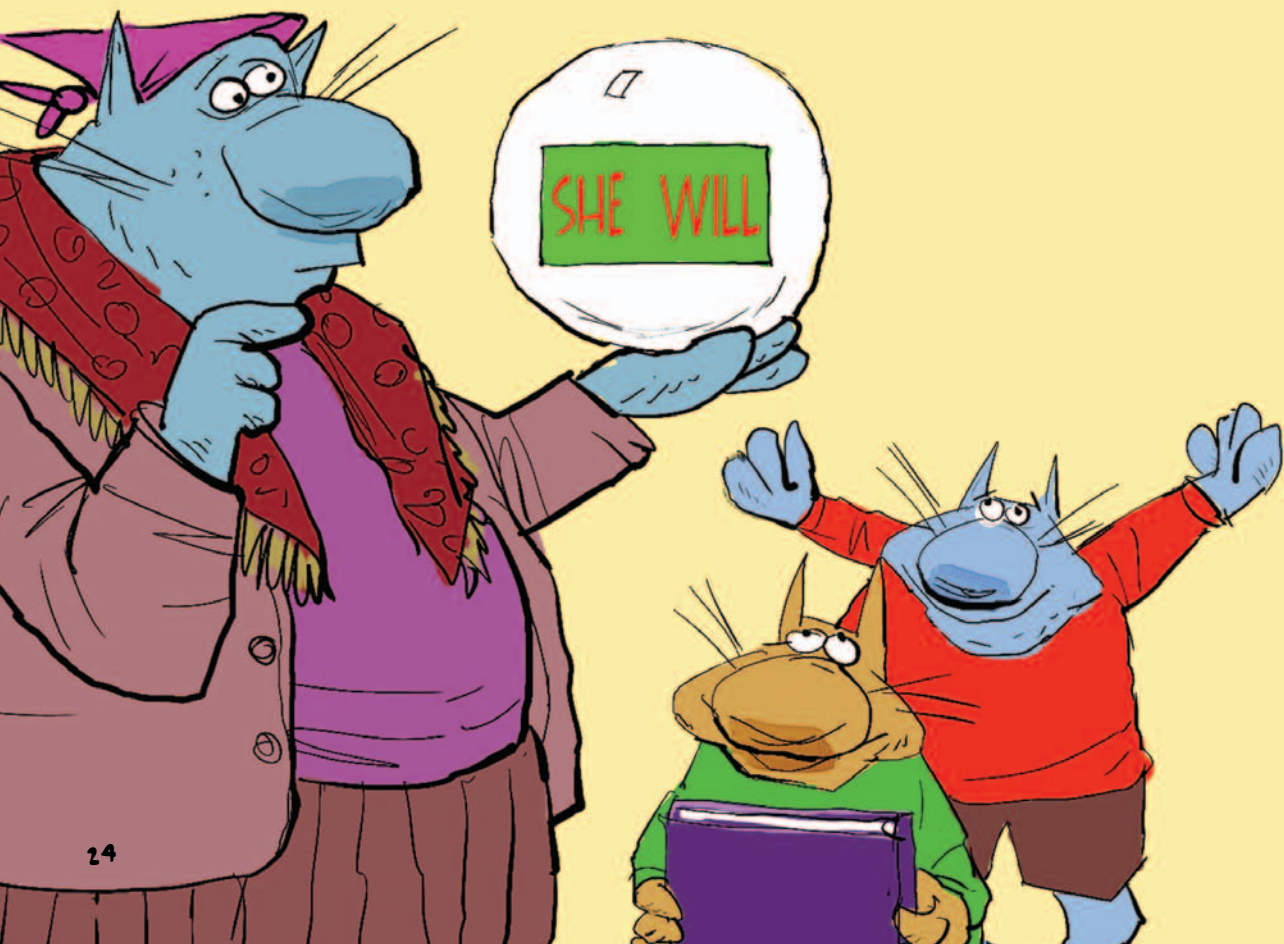


in words like "I'd" and "she'd"



as well as "you'd"
to name just three.

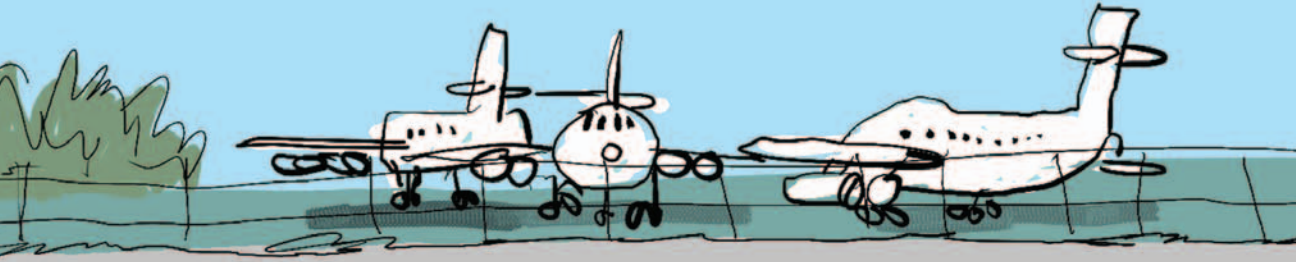
"Will" can come in handy
as a future-tense
contraction.



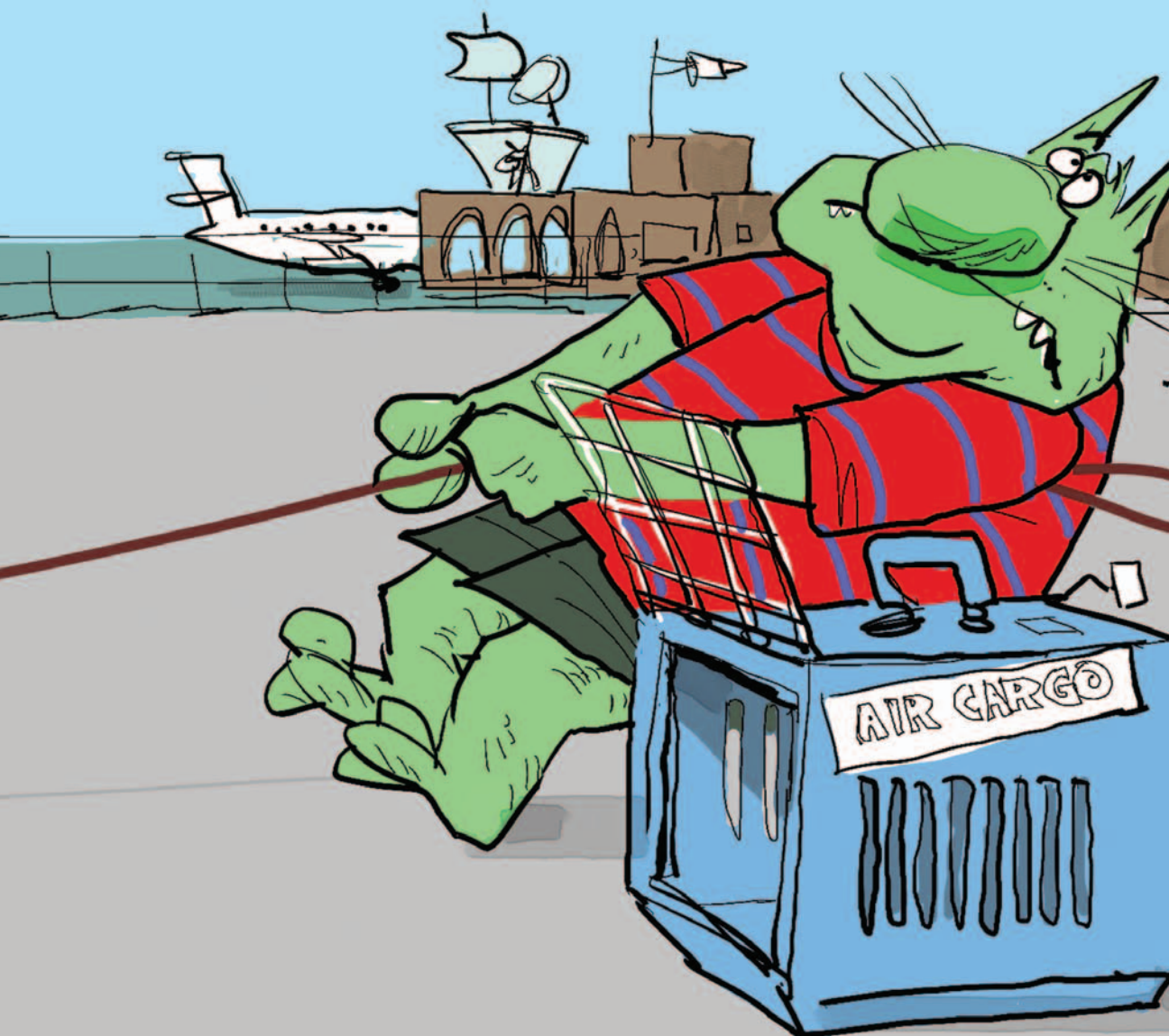
shrink "she will"
right down to "she'll"—
it's smaller by a fraction.



Sometimes **you'll** find
"have" and "had"
have been abbreviated.



Like here: "I've got a puppy,"
and "I'd better get him crated."





Aren't contractions
useful words?

In speech and writing, *don't*

have any fear
in using them.



(I'm guessing
that you won't!)

So what's a contraction?



Do you know?





ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

BRIAN P. CLEARY is the author of the best-selling **Words Are CATEgorical**® series as well as the **Math Is CATEgorical**®, **Food Is CATEgorical**™, **Adventures in Memory**™, and **Sounds Like Reading**® series. He has also written The Punctuation Station, The Laugh Stand: Adventures in Humor, and several other books. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

BRIAN GABLE is the illustrator of many **Words Are CATEgorical**® books and the **Math Is CATEgorical**® series. Mr. Gable also works as a political cartoonist for the Globe and Mail newspaper in Toronto, Canada.

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Millbrook Press

A division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.

241 First Avenue North

Minneapolis, MN 55401 U.S.A.

Website address: www.lernerbooks.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Cleary, Brian P., 1959—

I'm and won't, they're and don't : what's a contraction? / by Brian P. Cleary ; illustrated by Brian Gable.

p. cm. — (Words are CATEgorical)

ISBN: 978-0-8225-9155-9 (lib. bdg. : alk. paper)

1. English language—Contraction—Juvenile literature. 2. Contraction—Juvenile literature. 3. Language arts (Primary) I. Gable, Brian, 1949—ill. II. Title.

PE1161.C54 2010

421'.54—dc22

2009049201

Manufactured in the United States of America

1 — DP — 7/15/10

eISBN: 978-0-7613-6350-7

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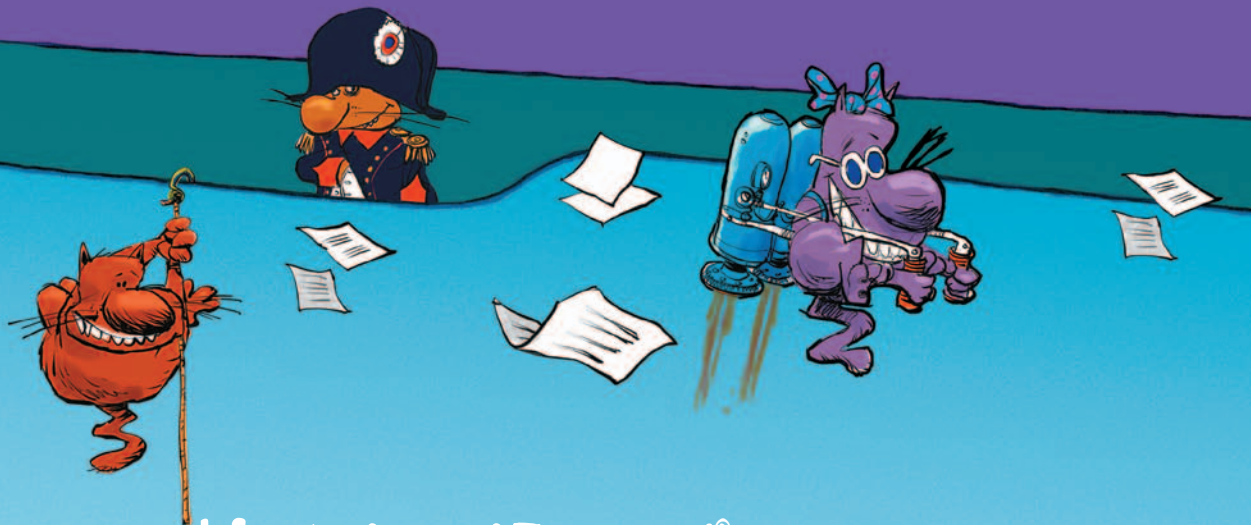


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ML Millbrook Press

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241 First Avenue North • Minneapolis, MN 55401
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A Lime, a Mime, a Pool of Slime: More about Nouns

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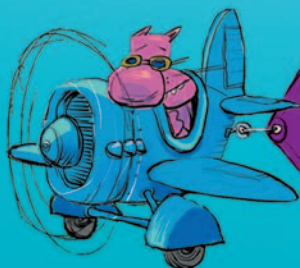
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